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*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

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Summary-

The next day, a judge, his young daughter and their servants arrive at the inn. After all of the people at the inn are talking, the captive tells how he is searching for his father and two brothers after he left them to fight for a king. After shortly discussing it, they realize that they are brothers as they had been apart for over ten years. In the middle of that night, some beauteous sing from outside the inn awakens some of the company. It turns out to be what appears to be a muleteer. Dorothea, who was awoken by this wakes the judge’s daughter so she can hear the voice. However, when she hears it she is very distraught. She explains to Dorothea that it is her love from back in Madrid that has been following them around. They both love each other, but the boy’s father will not consent to the marriage. During the same night, the innkeeper’s daughter, and her servant decide to play a jest on Don Quixote, who is out in the stables. They pretend to be a damsel and attempt to woe Don Quixote. They tell him to them his arm, so he does. They then tie his arm to a bolt on the window and leave him there. He is left there for over two hours, standing on the back of Rocinante with his wrist tied to the window.

Señor Don Quixote remains there until four men came on horseback and again woke the residents of the inn. Rocinante moves before the others get out to assist Don Quixote, so he falls, and is hanging by the wrist. The guests tend to Don Quixote and then the four horsemen. It turns out that they are the “muleteer’s” servants that have come to bring him back. However, he refuses. An officer then reports to the inn and seeing Don Quixote begins to beat him. He has a warrant for the capture of a man that fits his description, for assaulting the Holy Brotherhood. The guests at the inn plead the case for Don Quixote saying that he is not in his right mind. The people of the inn devise a plan to return Don Quixote home. The barber and curate disguise themselves, bind up the knight-errant in the middle of the night, and then put him in a cage and then set out toward his town.

The group includes the curate, barber, Sancho, and some others from the inn. They stop for a rest, and a cannon comes along (person, not thing that goes boom) and he is interested in Don Quixote’s wild actions. They then let out Don Quixote as they are about to eat and he must relieve himself. When Don Quixote returns he argues against the cannon on the topic of books on chivalry, for he believes them to be entertaining. However, the cannon thinks they are worthless lies. They then, hear a sound. It turns out to be a goatherd going after a goat and the others invite him over. He says that he has a story for them if they do not mind.

He shares the story of how he and another young man from a near town were in competition to be married to the best young woman in the town. However, she runs away with a soldier come back, but he steals everything from her. For this, her father sends her to a convent. Yet, the two young men are distraught and tired of waiting so they decide to come to the woods to work. The goatherd now holds contempt for every woman. He insults Don Quixote’s wits afterward, which ends in a bloody quarrel. Don Quixote then sees a mass of men on horseback with a woman. They are doing a procession to pray for rain, but Don Quixote believes they are holding her against her will. For this, he runs off on Rocinante with his sword. However, a man strikes him on the shoulder with a branch he was carrying for support. Don Quixote falls off his horse and is rendered immobile. Thus, they put him back in the cage and make their way to the town. Don Quixote’s niece and servant are so excited to see him back. Sancho’s wife is also ecstatic to have him back. The niece and servant hope that Don Quixote will not run off again, but of course, he does. Part One ends with the telling of the death records of Don Quixote and Dulcinea del Tolboso, and other record of Rocinante and Sancho Panza. It then proceeds to say that records of the third adventure had been uncovered and that the author hopes to write about it later.

Analysis-

I did not like how the beginning of this section added many new characters, most who added nothing to the plot or progression of the story. It just ended up getting confusing because that inn was mad crowded. About ten more people came after they said they had no more room. The fights were also confusing because I could not tell who was abusing who when or what was going on at all. Not to be a spoil sport but I did not appreciate how everything just worked out perfectly at the inn. In a previous section, two pairs of separated lovers happen to reunite at the inn; and now two long-lost brothers reunite. I might understand if this was Andorra, but this is Spain, it is not that small that everybody runs into each other all the time. However, I loved the ending. I was reading the last chapter in Part One, and I was thinking that there was not much time to end the story, but I think Cervantes did it perfectly. It was also hilarious how Don Quixote ran away again, because he has lost his mind, of course he would. There was also a lot of other humor in this section and I liked that.

Application-

I think the chief characteristic in this portion of my book was morals and ideals. However, they were not good ideals. Everybody is always making a sport of Don Quixote and Sancho. I always feel so bad for them because they are usually so oblivious to what is going on. They will tell tales of Don Quixote’s misfortunes and then have a hearty laugh about it. Others will also play into situations to get Sancho in trouble with Don Quixote. Most people in this novel are jerks. These situations show how not everybody is nice and that is important to have good morals and ideals as they will follow you for the rest of your life. Some other minor characteristics hit on were love and rebellion. Both sides of love are seen, as the judge’s daughter and her love are so in love with each other with so much bliss. On the other hand, the goatherd is completely bitter about love and wishes to have nothing to do with it, which really shows that when it comes to love, everybody and nobody is correct. Rebellion is further shown through other love for books on chivalry and knight-errantry, showing people do not want to be told what to do by anybody other than themselves.